cember, 1998. Follow up action has now to be taken for the signing of the agreement by the two Governments. The bus service is expected to comence by the middle of January, 1999.

The safety and security of the bus and passengers will be ensured by the respective governments in their territories.

There is no proposal to introduce a bus service between Hyderabad and towns in Pakistan.

Impact of withdrawal of Sanctions by USA

1320. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRA PILLAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the impact of the recent withdrawal of sanctions of India by United States in various sectors; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the approach of United State is discriminatory per se and also its consequences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) In partial exercise of waiver authority given by the US Congress, US Government on November 7, 1998 announced lifting of some economic restrictive measures against India. These relate to programmes of three US institutions namely the EXIM Bank, Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) and the Trade Development Authority (TDA) in addition to lifting restrictions on Commercial US Banks and International Military Education & Training Programme (IMET).

The removal of these restrictions will improve the climate for mutually beneficial business interactions and improve the prospects of Indian and US companies making use of these programmes to raise financing from the US for industrial and infrastructural projects.

(b) While announcing lifting of the same restrictions for Pakistan, the US also announced lifting of restrictions on lending from the multilateral development Banks in the context of an IMF led emergency package for the Pakistan economy.

India has supported economic assistance to Pakistan and has consistently voted in the World Bank and other multilateral forums in favour of such assistance. India, however, does not agree with selective and discriminatory approach in this regard. India has always maintained that unilateral and restrictive economic meausres are unjustified and counter productive and should be lifted.

Persons of Indian Origin in Various Countries

1321. SHRI CO. POULOSE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the number of persons of Indian-origin living in various countries, country-wise and profession-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): A statement detailing the approximate number of Indian citizens living in various countries is placed on the Table of the House *(See* below). No record has so far been maintained of the profession-wise break-up of Indians living abroad. Computer software has however very recently been developed which would enable the Indian diplomatic Missions and Posts abroad in future to collect and maintain a comprehensive database, including information on profession, of both Indian citizens resident abroad as well of those foreign nationals of Indian origin wishing to register their interest with Government.